

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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LONDON PASS SECDEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, UR (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S AIRPORT DEPARTURE STATEMENT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE STATEMENT MADE
AT VNUKOVO AIRPORT, APPROXIMATELY 9:30 LOCAL TIME AND
OF BRIEF QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD WITH REPORTERS
AFTERWARDS.

(BEGIN TEXT) FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY
APPRECIATION TO PRESIDENT BREZHNEV AND TO FOREIGN MINISTER
GROMYKO FOR THEIR WARM HOSPITALITY AND FOR THE FRIENDLY
AND CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT WHICH THEY HAVE BROUGHT TO OUR
MEETINGS. I WOULD IN PARTICULAR AS A FOREIGN MINISTER,
LIKE TO ADD A PERSONAL WORD OF RESPECT FOR MINISTER
GROMYKO. AS A THOROUGHLY PROFESSIONAL PRACTITIONER OF THE
DIPLOMATIC TRADE HAS FEW PEERS IN THE MODERN WORLD.
HE REPRESENTS HIS COUNTRY'S INTEREST, WITH GREAT SKILL,
HIGH INTELLIGENCE, AND A SPIRIT TEMPERED IN DECADES OF
EXPERIENCE.

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--OUR MEETINGS HERE HAVE BEEN USEFUL AND, CONSTRUCTIVE.
THE STRUCTURE OF PEACE THAT WE ALL DESIRE, IF IT IS TO BE
ENDURING, MUST BE BUILT BRICK BY BRICK WITH WORKMAN-LIKE
AND REALISTIC STEPS. WE HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS DURING
THESE MEETINGS TOWARD A SALT AGREEMENT, AND WE HOPE TO
CARRY THESE EFFORTS FORWARD IN SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS. THERE

IS NO MORE IMPORTANT TASK BEFORE THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD THAN THIS CRITICAL EFFORT TO BRING A SENSE OF SANITY INTO THE REGULATION OF THE MILITARY COMPETITION, ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO STRATEGIC WEAPONS. WE HAVE ALSO MADE SOME PROGRESS, I BELIEVE, IN MOVING TOWARD A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES. WE ARE REALISTIC ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS AND WE KNOW THAT THEY WILL NOT BE DISPELLED BY DECLARATIONS BUT WILL CONTINUE TO REQUIRE PRACTICAL MEASURES AND CONTINUOUS EFFORT. IT IS OUR INTENTION TO WORK AT THESE PROBLEMS WITH DETERMINATION, RECOGNIZING THAT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES ARE A CENTRAL FACTOR IN WORLD PEACE AND STABILITY.

--QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR AN EARLY SUMMIT MEETING?

--MR. VANCE: WELL, WE HAVE LOTS OF WORK TO DO AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK AT THE TASK WHICH WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THE LAST FEW DAYS HERE.

--QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, HOW LONG DO YOU SUPPOSE IT WILL TAKE TO COMPLETE A SALT AGREEMENT? WEEKS, MONTHS, YEARS?

--MR. VANCE: I DON'T WANT TO TRY AND MAKE AN EXACT GUESS
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BUT AS WE SAID YESTERDAY WE ARE DETERMINED TO MOVE TOWARDS A SALT AGREEMENT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

--QUESTION: DID YOU DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS WITH MR. BREZHNEV AND TO WHAT RESULT?

--MR. VANCE: WE DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF MATTERS COVERING BOTH OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

--QUESTION: WHAT WERE THE UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS LEFT OVER THAT WERE MENTIONED IN THE COMMUNIQUE?

--MR. VANCE: I DON'T THINK THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO GO INTO THE UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS AT THIS POINT.

--QUESTION: WOULD YOU CONSIDER THEM TO BE FUNDAMENTAL?

--MR. VANCE: I THINK THAT I HAVE SAID ALL I WANT TO SAY AT THIS POINT.

--MR. GROMYKO: TODAY IN THE CAPACITY OF CICERO SPEAKS THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES.

--QUESTION: DO YOU AGREE WITH HIM, MR. GROMYKO?

--MR. GROMYKO: WHAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS SAID DOES
NOT DIVERGE FROM MY OPINION. (IN RUSSIAN)

--QUESTION DO YOU BELIEVE PROGRESS WAS MADE IN IMPROVING
THE ATMOSPHERE OO RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES?

--MR. GROMYKO: I THINK I EXHAUSTED MYSELF. (IN ENGLISH)
(END TEXT) TOON

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